Church unity
23:4 WH12 W78 RF (misc.)

# World Conference on Faith and Order

THIRD SERIES OF

QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

SUGGESTED BY THE SUBJECTS COMMITTEE

# The Church

Pacific School of Religion Berkeley, Calif.
HOLBROOK LIBRARY PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

*Published by the world-wide Continuation Committee representing the following Communions: Anglican, Armenian, Baptist, Congregational, Czechoslovak, Disciples, Eastern Orthodox, Friends, German Evangelical, Lutheran, Methodist, Old Catholic, Presbyterian, Reformed, South India United*

October, 1923

WH12 W78 RF (misc.)

WH12
W78
RF
(misc.)

THE Subjects Committee was appointed in 1920 by the preliminary meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, to suggest topics for thorough consideration by small groups of members of different Churches throughout the world, in the hope that careful reports of such discussions will be sent to the General Secretary, Robert H. Gardiner, 174 Water Street, Gardiner, Maine, U. S. A., for the Subjects Committee, to enable it to make suggestive reports thereon for further discussion.

The members of the Subjects Committee are as follows:

Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Bombay, Malabar Hill, Bombay, India, *Convener.*

Rev. Canon H. N. Bate, M.A., The Abbey, Carlisle, England, *Hon. Secretary.*

Dr. Theol. A. Lang, Domplatz 3, Halle, A.S., Germany.

Dr. Hamilcar Alivisatos, Voulis Street, 27, Athens, Greece.

Rev. Principal Alexander Martin, D.D., New College, Mound, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Rev. Principal W. B. Selbie, D.D., Mansfield College, Oxford, England.

---

Copies of this folder, of the First Series of Questions (which was on the Faith of the reunited Church) and of the Second Series (on the Ministry in the reunited Church), and of the preliminary report of the Subjects Committee on replies thereto, or of translations of them into French, German or modern Greek, may be had free on application to the General Secretary, Robert H. Gardiner, 174 Water Street, Gardiner, Maine, U. S. A.

The Committee urges that reports of discussions by local conferences of the Third Series of Questions be sent to the General Secretary by May 31, 1924.

# Third Series of Questions
# THE CHURCH

1. How was the Church founded? Is it in any specific sense a divine institution?

2. What are the essential characteristics of the Church? and in particular what is the relation of the Church to Christ and to the Holy Spirit?

3. What are the visible marks of the Church on earth?

4. What is the relation of the Church to the Churches?

5. What is the relation of the Church to the Kingdom of God?

In order to facilitate the consideration of the above questions, the Subjects Committee would draw attention to the following extracts from an agreed statement on the nature of the Church put forward by the joint Conference of Anglicans and Free Churchmen meeting at Lambeth in London, England, under the Chairmanship of the Archbishop of York. It is here given simply for the information of those concerned and it is not intended that all the subjects it raises should be dealt with in the answers, *e.g.*, the Sacraments and the Ministry are dealt with in two other series of questions.

## REPORT ON THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH.

1. The foundation of the Church rests not upon the will or consent or beliefs of men, whether as individuals or as societies, but upon the creative Will of God.

2. The Church is the Body of Christ, and its constitutive principle is Christ Himself, living in His members through His Spirit.

3. As there is but one Christ, and one Life in Him, so there is and can be but one Church.

4. This one Church consists of all those who have been, or are being, redeemed by and in Christ, whether in this world or in the world beyond our sight, but it has its expression in this world in a visible form. Yet the Church, as invisible and as visible, is, by virtue of its one life in Christ, one.

5. This visible Church was instituted by Christ as a fellowship of men united with Him, and in Him with one another, to be His witness and His instrument in the spread of His Kingdom on earth.

6. As a visible Church it must possess certain visible and recognisable marks whereby it can be seen and known by men. These have been since the days of the Apostles at least the following: (a) The profession of faith in God as revealed and incarnate in Christ; (b) the observance of the two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself; (c) an ideal of the Christian life protected by a common discipline; (d) a ministry, representative of the Church, for the preaching of the Word, the administration of the Sacraments, and the maintenance of the unity and continuity of the Church's witness and work.

7. Baptism is by the ordinance of Christ and of His Apostles the outward and visible sign of admission into membership of the Church.

8. The Church visible on earth ought to express and manifest to the world by its own visible unity the one Life in Christ of the one Body.

9. The true relation of the Church and local Churches is that which is described in the New Testament — namely, that the Churches are the local representatives of the One Church. The actual situation brought about in the course of history in which there are different and even rival denominational Churches independent of each other and existing together in the same locality, whatever justification arising out of historical circumstances may be claimed for these temporary separations, cannot be regarded as in accordance with the Purpose of Christ, and every endeavour ought to be made to restore the true position as set forth in the New Testament.

The complete Report is printed in the World Conference pamphlet No. 35, *Hopeful Conferences in England and Australia*, sent free on application to the General Secretary. The members of the conference adopting the Report were (for the National Council of Evangelical Free Churches)

Rev. J. D. Jones, M.A., D.D. (Moderator); Rev. Charles Brown, D.D.; Rev. W. T. Davison, M.A., D.D.; Sir Walter Essex; Rev. W. Y. Fullerton; Rev. A. E. Garvie, M.A., D.D.; Rev. R. C. Gillie, M.A.; Sir Alfred Pearce Gould, K.C.V.O., M.S.; Rev. A. J. Viner; Rev. S. Horton; Rev. H. Maldwyn Hughes, B.A., D.D.; Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, M.A., D.D.; Right Rev. Bishop Mumford; Rev. T. Nightingale; Prof. A. S. Peake, M.A., D.D.; Rev. Alex. Ramsay, D.D.; Right Hon. Walter Runciman; Rev. W. B. Selbie, M.A., D.D.; Rev. J. Alfred Sharp; Rev. P. Carnegie Simpson, M.A., D.D.; Right Hon. J. H. Whitley, M.P.; Rev. Henry Smith; Rev. W. Lewis Robertson, M.A.; Rev. Walter H. Armstrong, and Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, M.A., D.D., secretaries,

and (for the Church of England)

the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of London, Winchester, Gloucester, Ely, Lichfield, Peterborough, Chelmsford, Hereford, and Ripon, the Bishop of Salisbury, Dr. Headlam (now Bishop of Gloucester), and Dr. Walter Frere.